

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink tube for an ink jet printer formed by using a thermoplastic elastomer composition, having a Shore-A-hardness of not more than 70, which comprises an olefin thermoplastic resin and a rubber component, containing not less than 30 wt% of butyl rubber, which is dispersed finely by dynamic vulcanization said rubber component in said olefin thermoplastic resin.

2. The ink tube according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic elastomer composition is shaped a tube by a resin extrusion method.

3. The ink tube according to claim 1, wherein a weight ratio between said thermoplastic elastomer composition and said rubber component is 4:1 to 1:4.

4. The ink tube according to claim 2, wherein a weight ratio between said thermoplastic elastomer composition and said rubber component is 4:1 to 1:4.

5. The ink tube according to claim 1, wherein water vapor permeability is not more than  $1.0 \text{ (g}\cdot\text{mm/m}^2\cdot\text{day)}$  at  $37.8^\circ\text{C}$  and 90%RH; and air permeability is not more than  $100 \text{ (g}\cdot\text{mm/m}^2\cdot\text{day}\cdot\text{atm)}$  at  $23^\circ\text{C}$ .

6. The ink tube according to claim 2, wherein water vapor permeability is not more than  $1.0 \text{ (g}\cdot\text{mm/m}^2\cdot\text{day)}$  at  $37.8^\circ\text{C}$  and 90%RH; and air permeability is not more than  $100 \text{ (g}\cdot\text{mm/m}^2\cdot\text{day}\cdot\text{atm)}$  at  $23^\circ\text{C}$ .

7. The ink tube according to claim 3, wherein water vapor permeability is not more than  $1.0 \text{ (g}\cdot\text{mm/m}^2\cdot\text{day)}$  at  $37.8^\circ\text{C}$  and 90%RH; and air permeability is not more than 100  $(\text{g}\cdot\text{mm/m}^2\cdot\text{day}\cdot\text{atm})$  at  $23^\circ\text{C}$ .

5        8. The ink tube according to claim 4, wherein water vapor permeability is not more than  $1.0 \text{ (g}\cdot\text{mm/m}^2\cdot\text{day)}$  at  $37.8^\circ\text{C}$  and 90%RH; and air permeability is not more than 100  $(\text{g}\cdot\text{mm/m}^2\cdot\text{day}\cdot\text{atm})$  at  $23^\circ\text{C}$ .

10       9. The ink tube according to claim 1, wherein as said rubber component, butyl rubber is used singly or a mixture of said butyl rubber and EPDM is used; and as said olefin thermoplastic resin, one or more resins selected from among polypropylene and polyethylene are used.

15       10. The ink tube according to claim 2, wherein as said rubber component, butyl rubber is used singly or a mixture of said butyl rubber and EPDM is used; and as said olefin thermoplastic resin, one or more resins selected from among polypropylene and polyethylene are used.

20       11. The ink tube according to claim 3, wherein as said rubber component, butyl rubber is used singly or a mixture of said butyl rubber and EPDM is used; and as said olefin thermoplastic resin, one or more resins selected from among polypropylene and polyethylene are used.

25       12. The ink tube according to claim 4, wherein as said rubber component, butyl rubber is used singly or a mixture of

said butyl rubber and EPDM is used; and as said olefin thermoplastic resin, one or more resins selected from among polypropylene and polyethylene are used.

13. The ink tube according to claim 5, wherein as said  
5 rubber component, butyl rubber is used singly or a mixture of said butyl rubber and EPDM is used; and as said olefin thermoplastic resin, one or more resins selected from among polypropylene and polyethylene are used.